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Soviets in Trouble

Editor, Tribune: In The Tribune Forum of July 26 George Tahataras challenged Senator Goldwater's statement that the Soviet Union is in a near state of economic collapse. He called this "propaganda."

If Mr. Tahataras had done his homework he would realize that Senator Goldwater's statement was true.

On Jan. 9, 1964, the CIA issued a report revealing that Russia was running out of gold and "is in such deep economic trouble that Premier Nikita Khrushchev must pare other programs to meet his (agriculture) expansion goals if he cannot get long-term credit from the West."

Also, last October, a speech by Khrushchev and an official Russian report admitted industrial obsolescence and the fact that 53 per cent of Russia's lathes are idle due to inferior production and lack of replacement parts.

The Senate Judiciary Committee has also found by translating Moscow technological journals that "30 per cent of construction machinery is systematically idle. Many assemblies of agricultural machinery do not last a single

season." (Report "Exports of Strategic Materials to the USSR" P. 73).

Sen. Thomas Dodd (D-Conn.) has said, "Under these circumstances, it would be ridiculous and suicidal for Americans to contribute in any way to Soviet strength." And that "the time may come when a total embargo of trade with the Soviets may have to be considered."

CHARLOTTE MORROW